



CONSTELLATION

A publication of the
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
Volume 36, Number 12 December 2010

Baltimore District, partners announce beginning of construction on Washington, D.C., flood project



Col. Dave Anderson, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, addresses the media Nov. 15 in Washington, D.C., at a ceremony marking the beginning of construction of the 17th Street levee closure, which will help protect parts of Washington, D.C., and the National Mall from river flooding. Unprecedented cooperation between the Corps, and other federal and District agencies made this project possible. Construction is scheduled to begin in December and be completed by summer 2011.

Photo by Fred Furney

Developing leaders grow through Capstone II seminar

By Clem Gaines
Planning Division

Walking the battlefields at Gettysburg and discussing Civil War senior officer decisions and actions, the nine members of the 2010 Leadership Development Program Tier II compared military leadership to issues relevant to the Corps today.

The Nov. 8-10 Capstone II seminar provided an intense, small group experience for each participant, and opportunities to work through complex leadership and mission-completion issues outside their normal duties.

Capstone II is the culminating event that allows students to synthesize and apply all of the knowledge and skills developed

throughout the course of the year. It provided advanced leadership development through participant preparation, team building exercises focusing on decision-making, problem solving and communicative skills.

The LDP is organized under a Board of Directors comprised of Maria Franks, Planning Division, Sara Robert, acting deputy chief in Planning, and Pam Sleeper, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Integrated Program Office.

"The LDP, developing District personnel since 2003, includes a competitive, two-tier program that provides employees at any grade the opportunity to strengthen leadership skills and learn about Army leadership and to develop both personally and

professionally," said Robert.

Mark Wherry, an architect in the Realty Services Field Office, said, "The Capstone II event was a great learning experience and really brought leadership alive and out of the text book."

His RSFO contracting colleague, Calvin Mitchell, said, "The capstone event was extremely valuable, and the program allowed me to use real world experience fused with historical examples."

From the Engineering Division, Emily Schiffmacher said, "The value of capstone is learning about myself, and meeting people outside of the Baltimore headquarters from offices I do not usually interface with."

LDP cont. on page 7



Commander's Comment

Happy Holidays, Baltimore District!

By Col. Dave Anderson
Baltimore District Engineer

The holiday season is upon us, giving us an opportunity to visit with family and friends.

The Baltimore District is also a family, one that works together to support the Armed Forces, restore and protect the environment, protect and develop America's water resources, protect lives and property, and fight the Global War on Terror. Together, we make the world a better place.

Twenty-five Baltimore District employees are serving our country in support of overseas contingency operations in places like Afghanistan and Iraq. Remember and pray for our

Soldiers and NAB family members around the world, and give thanks for their sacrifices in helping to keep our Nation safe, secure and strong.

Let's also remember those people who aren't as fortunate as us. If you can, please contribute to the organization of your choice through the Combined Federal Campaign. It's the right thing to do, in keeping with the spirit of the season. The campaign runs through Dec. 15. See page 14 for some more information on the CFC.



In the coming weeks, enjoy some well-deserved time off and recharge your batteries.

Kara and I wish a happy holiday season to everyone in the Baltimore District, to your families and to those with whom we serve.

I'm proud of the work we've done in 2010 and look forward to seeing what we can do together in 2011!



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District

CONSTELLATION

District Engineer: Col. Dave Anderson

Editor: Tina Carlsen

Contributors: Joyce Conant, Katisha Draughn, Ashley Williams and Fred Furney.

Constellation is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 and published monthly by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Md. 21203-1715. Telephone: (410) 962-2809; fax: (410) 962-3660. It is printed on recyclable paper; press run 1,400. All manuscripts submitted are subject to editing and rewriting. Material from this publication may be reproduced without permission. Views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Send story ideas to constellationeditor@usace.army.mil. Deadline is the third Friday of each month for the following month's publication.

Honoring one of our own

Col. Dave Anderson, Baltimore District Engineer, awarded the Army Engineer Association Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal posthumously to Ann Haught during a ceremony Nov. 16 at the District. Accepting on her behalf were her son and daughter-in-law, Matthew (pictured) and Christanne Haught; daughter, Stacey (pictured); and grandson, Adam.

Ann, executive secretary to 20 Baltimore District Engineers in her 54 years with the District, was originally scheduled to receive this honor during her retirement ceremony, which would have been in August. Ann passed away unexpectedly June 27.

The de Fluery medal is presented to an individual who has rendered significant service or support to an element of the Engineer Regiment.

"Ann touched all of us every day," said Anderson. "It breaks our hearts that Ann can't be here to accept this herself."



Photo by David Gray

One of Ann's happiest days at the District, said Anderson, was her surprise 80th birthday gathering in February, as former District commanders and employees surrounded her. Many of those same people were in attendance at the de Fluery Medal presentation.

Baltimore District gets Facebook page

By Katisha Draughn
Public Affairs Office

Facebook is sweeping the country in terms of popularity and has rapidly become the way the world communicates.

It's an outlet that many people use to connect with friends, family and colleagues and is a great medium for people to discover, read and share news, information and content.

Baltimore District has joined other Corps of Engineers districts, and federal and state agencies in developing a new Facebook Fan page.

Since its debut Nov. 9, the number of fans has grown steadily each day. Within its first two weeks, the page had nearly 300 fans.



Baltimore District's Facebook Fan page will feature weather updates and emergency weather conditions, District events such as groundbreakings, ribbon cuttings, changes of command, public meetings, speaking engagements, news releases, visits from prominent leaders, public notices, internal and external news articles and television segments that cite the Baltimore District.

It will also have job announcements, progress of construction projects and some of our deployed employees.

The Public Affairs Office will produce the majority of the posted content.

Employee participation is encouraged, so if any employee has ideas or suggestions on items that should be posted, please feel free to call (410) 962-2809.

Information must be reviewed by the Public Affairs Office and that employee's particular division chief before posting.

Posted information must adhere to operations security and safety standards and employee security.

The Baltimore District Facebook Fan page can be found at: <http://www.facebook.com/USACEBaltimore>.

Brown bag event promotes overseas contingency ops

Story and photo by Fred Furney
Public Affairs Office

Baltimore District held a brown bag session Oct. 25 at the City Crescent Building to discuss opportunities within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Overseas Contingency Operations program.

The Baltimore District has been supporting Overseas Contingency Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan for quite a few years.

"Our success is the result of individuals standing up and volunteering for this very important mission," said Lt. Col. Hugh Darville, Deputy Commander and Deputy District Engineer Baltimore District. "More than ever is the need for volunteers especially for Afghanistan."

Brown Bags give employees an opportunity to hear about the OCO program, volunteer opportunities, experiences from employees who have deployed in the past, and to talk with others who have an interest in deploying and serving in a unique, rewarding and life-changing capacity.



Baltimore District employees took part in a brown bag informational session Oct. 25 to promote Overseas Contingency Operations opportunities.

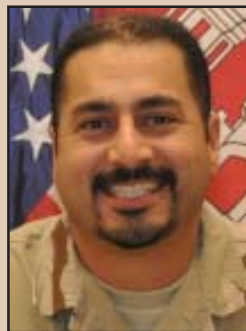
Col. Dave Anderson, Baltimore District Engineer, said the first step someone considering a deployment needs to take is to discuss it with family members. He offered to contact families affected by overseas deployments to provide an understanding of the mission and its importance to the nation.

Overseas contingency operations

projects include design and construction of schools, hospital, health clinics, police stations, military facilities, roads, railroads, rail stations, airports, power plants, oil refineries, water treatment and supply.

The next brown bag session is currently scheduled for February. Details will be provided in January.

Baltimore District deployments



Baltimore District has 25 people deployed in support of overseas operations. Shown are (left to right) Lt. Col. Ty Weaver, Contracting Division; Erin Shaffer, Construction Division; and Oscar Lopez, Engineering Division; all who deployed this fall.

Former Baltimore DEs, senior leaders visit District

More than 15 former Baltimore District commanders and senior leaders received an update on District projects and activities Nov. 16 at the City Crescent Building. The update was followed by an open house, giving employees a chance to catch up with their former co-workers.

Attendees included former Baltimore District Commanders Col. (Ret.) Martin Walsh, Col. (Ret.) Frank Finch, Col. (Ret.) Randall Inouye and Col. (Ret.) James Peck; former District Counsel Jack Herbert; former Planning Division Chiefs Bill Trischman and Jim Johnson; former Operations Division Chiefs John O'Hagan and Chris Correale; former Construction Division Chief Dick Hanson; former CO Deputy Chief Chuck Schroer; former Deputy for Programs and Project Management Tony Leketa and Charlie Hess; former Real Estate Division Chief Barry Frankel; former Resource Management Chief Jim Harrington; and former Government Affairs Officer Charlie Walker.



Former Deputy for Programs and Project Management (DPM) Tony Leketa (left) and current DPM Jim Jones.



Former Baltimore District Commander Col. (Ret.) Randall Inouye and Claire O'Neill from PPMD-Civil.



Former Real Estate Division Chief Barry Frankel (left) and Baltimore District Engineer Col. Dave Anderson.



Former Planning Division Chief Jim Johnson (left) and Robert Gore, current PL chief.



Former Baltimore District Commander Col. (Ret.) Martin Walsh (center) and Fred Engesser from RE (right).

Go fish!

Since 1999, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff at Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes has worked in partnership with the Tioga County Bass Anglers and many other volunteers to construct and install 2,050 artificial fishery habitat structures in the Hammond Lake and the Cowanesque Lake. This equates to about 85 acres worth of new habitat -- 60 at Hammond and 25 at Cowanesque. The goal of this effort is to improve fishery habitats to a point where 30 to 50 percent of the entire impoundment contains structure. Staff at the lakes say there is still more work to do, but all partners are committed to this goal. (Right) Porcupine Cribs are ready for placement. (Below) Spider Humps dot the shore of Hammon Lake. *Courtesy photos*



Sign your time ... what you need to know

By Cyndi Geppi
Resource Management Office

CAP 3A is the Chief Financial Officer's Act corrective action plan, or CAP, that addresses the audit requirement for employee, timekeeper and supervisor signatures on manual timesheets and Corps of Engineers Time, Attendance and Leave, or CETAL, reports.

Manual timesheets must be manually signed, while CETAL reports can be signed manually or in Corps of Engineers Financial Management System, or CEFMS.

The CAP resulted from external audit findings from fiscal 2006-2009, which pinpointed several

weaknesses in USACE financial processes, including accounting for property and equipment, cost share management, payroll and accounts payable.

Since this requirement began in June 2007, the Baltimore District has not accomplished this metric and has been rated red every month.

Although the CAPs are overseen by Resource Management, effort from every employee is needed to ensure that Baltimore District is in compliance with the CFO Act and the USACE corrective action plans.

Employees must ensure that both manual timesheets and the CETAL are signed within 10 business days after the pay period ends. The pay chart on page 15 may help with this.

Employees must also ensure they have documented approval for any leave taken or overtime/comp time worked through approved leave slips or overtime request forms.

To sign the CETAL report in CEFMS, follow these steps:

- Go to Menu AACGI
- Select Approve T&A (3)
- Select F4 in the Pay Period field and select the pay period you want to sign
- Click on the Approve/Sign button (bottom center of the screen).

Alternatively, timekeepers can print out the CETALs for employees to sign manually each pay period.

For more information, call (410) 962-2272.

Another project crosses the finish line



Photo by Dave Rolls

The National Center for Medical Intelligence at Fort Detrick in Frederick, Md., celebrated its newly expanded office space at a ribbon cutting ceremony held Nov. 9. The \$7.8 million expansion added 12,900 square feet to

the 31,500-square-foot facility. Maj. Gen. James Gilman, Commander for the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, recognized the Corps for “the good work they do here,” — saying that they never get any kudos. He thanked the Corps and its contractor Grunley Construction from Rockville, Md., for getting the project across the finish line.

(Shown from left to right) Then-Maj. Hugh Darville, deputy district engineer for the Baltimore District; Ms. Vivian Turnbull, Vice Deputy Director for Mission Services, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA); Lt. Gen. Ronald Burgess, Director, DIA; Congressman Roscoe Bartlett, Maryland; Maj. Gen. James Gilman, Commander, U.S. Army Medical Research & Materiel Command (USAMRMC) and Fort Detrick; Col. Anthony Rizzo, Director, National Center for Medical Intelligence (NCMI), DIA; Col. Judith Robinson, Garrison Commander, Fort Detrick and Mr. John Greenwell, Vice President of Special Projects, Grunley Construction.

LDP cont. from page 1

Ayesha Bonnette, a lead financial analyst, said “I gained more from the capstone than I imagined. I think back to my first LDP group session until now, and I can see the difference in myself as a future senior leader.”

William Heiney, a project engineer at Aberdeen Proving Ground, said, “The capstone is an opportunity to study leadership styles and decisions from history.”

Barbara Church, a supervisory program analyst in the Programs and Projects Management Division-Military, said, “As a new leader in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, my challenge is to learn from past and present leaders about their different leadership styles and apply them in performing my job.”

In preparation for Capstone II, LDP participants read the book “Killer Angels” about Union and Confederate senior leader actions.

They presented a briefing on a leader, which provided insight to their background, battle effectiveness and whether they would succeed as a Corps senior leader today.

Sarah Austin-Blevins, an RSFO project manager, said, “Capstone II reminds us that Civil War leaders had to make difficult decisions with limited information.”

Bob Fox, a Belvoir Integration Office program manager, said, “We worked as a team to present leadership topics and learn about how leadership styles impacted the outcome at the battle of Gettysburg. The event was truly an incredible learning experience.”

Under the expert guidance of Col. Greg Cantwell, a professor from the Army War College, the team walked from the woods where the 15,000 Confederate Soldiers gathered to the rock wall where Union forces repelled them.

District leaders joined the LDP group on the battlefield tour. This

included Capt. Joshua Thaniel, deputy commander for support operations; Ron Maj, chief, Engineering Division; and Terri Davis, chief, Office of Counsel.

“This seminar is important. We are taking future leaders and making a training investment, which is a key component of Campaign Plan Goal Four and the first Army Value,” Thaniel said.

In a seminar setting, the LDP participants worked as teams to discuss the general issues of motivation, communication and leadership. The participants also presented current news stories and their relevance to the Corps.

District employees interested in applying for the 2011 LDP program can submit their applications. Information is available on the intranet under Employee Quick Links.

Photos of the capstone can be found on the District Flickr site at http://www.flickr.com/photos/corps_of_engineers_baltimore/.

Baltimore District employee likes to live life full throttle

By Fred Furney
Public Affairs Office

David Gray, Baltimore District's information product coordinator, has a warrior's mentality with regard to his hobby, downhill mountain bike racing.

Gray was a novice to downhill mountain bike racing prior to entering his first event in 2009.

He now competes in both the Gravity East Series, which is the largest downhill mountain biking series in the United States, and the Blue Mountain Series.

He credits 10 years of motocross racing experience with giving him the ability and fearlessness to navigate a bike down extremely steep forested terrain rutted with rocks and roots.

Gray was introduced to downhill mountain biking when he and his family began visiting the Snowshoe Mountain Bike Park in Snowshoe, W. Va., in



Courtesy photo

David Gray, Baltimore District information product coordinator, (second from left) stands on the podium celebrating his third place finish for the season at the Gravity East Series Finals held Oct. 3 at Vertical Earth Gravity Park in Danielsville, Pa.

2007.

Gray worked at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Ordnance Center and School for 19 years prior to his arrival in the Baltimore District in June. At his previous job, Gray provided photographic services and produced combat and technical training videos.

Gray will provide similar services for the District.

"I've really enjoyed seeing the civil works side of the Army mission after 19 years of combat-related work," said Gray.

Gray's hobby is not inexpensive, but his costs are defrayed by sponsorship deals.

"My sponsors provide bikes, discounts on parts and some funding for entry fees and hotels," said Gray.

Downhill mountain bike racing is sort of a family affair for the Gray clan.

Daughter Lauren used to compete, but eventually lost interest because of the potential for injuries and scars.

"Lauren was a great rider and showed tremendous potential," said Gray. "She only raced three times and had one first place finish and two seconds."

Son Nick, who started racing along with his dad in 2009, finished 2nd in the Gravity East Series Sports Group this past year.

Gray and Nick have high hopes for 13-year-old Nick's career. Those hopes include a Union Cycliste Internationale Mountain Bike World Cup.

"The time that Nick and I have spent together during events the past few



Photo by Fred Furney

David Gray follows his son Nick through the woods during an Oct. 2 practice run for the Gravity East Series Finals, a downhill mountain bike race event held Oct. 3 at Vertical Earth Gravity Park in Danielsville, Pa.

years has strengthened our bond and provided him with character development," said Gray.

Downhill mountain biking is not for the weak. Since he started racing Gray has suffered five broken bones, including two at the Gravity East Finals held this past Nov. 7 at Blue Mountain, Pa.

Nick has also had his share of bumps and bruises, including a broken wrist, elbow and bruised kidneys.

In addition to the riding, Gray and Nick have developed friendships with several of the father-son teams that compete with them.

Gray, who won the last years Gravity East Series Category 3 Championship, counts Sugarbush Mountain in Vermont as his least favorite place to race. Ironically, Gray placed first at Sugarbush Mountain during his championship season.



Photo by Fred Furney

David Gray has worked at the Baltimore District since June. He sports a cast after a recent injury.



Photo by Fred Furney

David Gray descends a vertical slope, during an Oct. 2 practice run for the Gravity East Series Finals.

This year, Gray finished third in the Gravity East Series championship after moving up to Category 2.

Next year Gray will move up to the Category 1 series, better known as expert.

His scariest moment came this year at White Face Mountain in New York. According to Gray, he knocked himself out the second time he hit the ground after coming over a 6 foot drop.

When not racing down mountains, Gray also is interested in tamer pursuits such as fishing, travel and trying new restaurants.

Despite all the fractured bones Gray sees himself riding for another 10-15 years.

"I like the atmosphere, the camaraderie, the competition and the thrill I get from speeding down a mountainside," said Gray.

Corps employees help scouts earn activity badge

Webelos Scouts Pack 758 from Crofton Meadows Elementary School in Crofton, Md., visited a construction site managed by the Real Property Services Field Office in Annapolis Junction Oct. 6 as one requirement toward earning their Engineer Activity Badge.

As part of earning their activity badge, scouts must talk to an engineer, surveyor or architect about the different occupations in engineering.

They must also draw a floor plan of their house, including doors, windows and stairways.

This portion of their badge was lead by RSFO cost engineer and Eagle Scout William Harper.

As one of 10 other requirements, they can visit a construction site.

RSFO engineering technician and Eagle Scout Chuck Nemec coordinated the group's visit with Whiting Turner Construction, Inc., Project Manager Steve Mayoryk and Jack Butcher, senior site superintendent.

At the site, they were taught how to read construction plans and specifications used to build a building and parking structure.

At this meeting, site safety was also discussed with the scouts and parents.

The boys were presented with hard hats and safety kits from Whiting Turner.

On site, scouts and parents were treated with seeing a myriad of construction activities.

A tour through the main



Courtesy photo

Webelos Scouts Pack 758 from Crofton Meadows Elementary School visited a construction site managed by the Real Property Services Field Office in Annapolis Junction Oct. 6 as a requirement toward earning their Engineer Activity Badge.

building structure presented the scouts with an opportunity to see what a commercial structure looks like before being finished.

They got to see how steel members are first erected and then how the precast concrete panels are hung on the framework.

Inside, they saw how utilities enter and are routed through a building before being covered by concrete floor slabs and drywall.

Outside, the scouts were shown how utility trenches are dug, trench safety equipment used and how the trenches are marked before being covered or backfilled.

In all, the scouts saw how the big equipment works together in concert to produce a modern, energy efficient and Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, or LEED, certified building.

"Watching a construction site in operation is pretty cool for the boys," said Harper, "but understanding the logistics for getting the material to site and erected on time was an eye-opener for both boys and parents."

There were many questions about how and where the concrete panels came from, how many truckloads per day they could expect, and where do the workers eat their lunches.

Scouts who visited the site were Danny Ator, Liam Dolan, Dyson Jian, and Willie Harper, Harper's son. They were accompanied by their parents Jeff Ator, Leslie Dolan, Allison Jian and Nemec.

Story courtesy Real Property Services Field Office

Follow precautions, stay safe this holiday season

By Jennifer S. Nicolae
Safety and Occupational Health Office

It seems like we were just enjoying summer vacations, and all of a sudden, the holiday season has begun. Here are several tips that will help ensure your season is safe.

Trees

Christmas trees can become a fire hazard. To lessen the risk, buy a fresh, green tree. If a needle bends, it's most likely fresh. Needles that break or trees that shed a lot of needles are already drying out and should be avoided. Keep the tree stand filled with water. Artificial trees should be labeled as fire resistant. Do not place tree too close to a heat source, whether real or artificial.

Decorations

Use only flame-resistant or non-combustible materials to decorate the tree. Do not use real candles. Lights should have a Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label. Look for frayed cords, exposed wiring and burnt bulbs. Always turn the tree lights off when leaving the area in which the tree is set up, not just when leaving the house or going to bed.

Candles

Candles are one of the main causes of house fires during the holiday season. Keep candles at least a foot away from other materials such as drapes, towels and mattresses. Candles should be kept away from children and pets and should never be left burning unattended.

Use holders and displays that are nonflammable, heat-resistant and tip free. Check candles often to ensure they haven't burned down too far and that hot wax isn't spilling out of the holder.

Pets

Some animals become very stressed when strangers visit. If they have a quiet place to go away from the noise, they are less likely to be anxious. Have some of your pet's favorite toys available.

Christmas trees can be very tempting for our pets. Anchor the tree securely to keep it from falling. Buy a stand that keeps the tree well-hydrated while not becoming a water dish for your pets. Tree water can cause digestive upset, drown small pets and can lead you to believe the tree is getting water.

Avoid using tinsel or string on the tree. Keep ornaments off lower branches. If your pet ingests string, tinsel or ornaments, it's best to take them to a vet as soon as possible. Never pull on anything dangling out of your pet's mouth. It can cause serious internal damage.

Keep holly, mistletoe, lilies and poinsettias away from pets. They can cause gastrointestinal upset (or worse). Don't give in to the begging and sad eyes your pet may give you at the dinner table. Human food is too rich, and unsafe, for your pets and can cause digestive upset, choking, intestinal obstruction or even a very serious condition called pancreatitis, which is often fatal.

The holiday season is full of family, fun and excitement. By following these precautions, you can keep this holiday season safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Health, Safety Fair

Alisia Waldon (left) and Collette Day, both from Contracting Division, look at the displays set up at the 7th Annual Health and Safety Fair held Oct. 28-29 in the City Crescent Building. The fair, themed "Making our World Safer," featured information on fall prevention, stress management, body composition testing, nutrition, driver safety, free blood pressure checks and glaucoma testing.



Photo by Fred Furney

Angel Tree Program

Sponsored by the Salvation Army, the 2010 Angel Tree Program runs from Nov. 15 to Dec. 8. The program provides gifts for needy children throughout the United States.

The Baltimore regional office provides gifts for children in Howard, northern Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, and Baltimore city. Last year, Baltimore District contributed gifts, stockings and teddy bears for almost 200 children.

Angel cards include the child's name, age, sizes and toy wishes. There are also stockings that need to be filled and teddy bears who need outfits. For more information, including agency contacts, visit the intranet at <https://kme.usace.army.mil/NAD/NAB/intranet> and click on the Angel Tree announcement or call Sue Jones, Real Estate Division, at (410) 962-4675.

District Holiday Party

The Baltimore District Holiday Party is set for Dec. 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are on sale through Dec. 8. Visit the District intranet site at <https://kme.usace.army.mil/NAD/NAB/intranet> for ticket sales points.

New driving law in Maryland

A new driving law went into effect Oct. 1 that requires motorists to move over by a lane or to slow down when passing an emergency vehicle on the side of the road with its red or blue lights on.

Library website changes

The District Library webpage has a new look. Graphic links take visitors to several library services, while brief text blocks describe others. The library site is available on the District intranet at <https://kme.usace.army.mil/NAD/NAB/intranet> under the Employee Services drop down menu. One of the new features is a New Books page. Click the link from the main page and see the covers and brief blurbs about our new books. This page will be updated periodically as new books are added, so check it out often. To offer suggestions for how library services can be improved, call Steve Brooks, District Librarian, at (410) 962-3423.

Our Proud Past

*This series presents vignettes from Baltimore District's history, culled from *The Mid-Atlantic Engineers: a History of the Baltimore District*. We welcome contributions from long-time employees and retirees.*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had its role in the very beginnings of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the B&O as it was affectionately called.

The rails were to extend from Baltimore to the Ohio River, which was the origin of the company's name.

The Army Topographical Engineers, as a part of the Corps, were called upon to survey the route.

On July 4, 1776, four Marylanders signed the Declaration of Independence: Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Samuel Chase, William Paca and Thomas Stone.

52 years later to the day, in 1828, one of those signers, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, then 90 years old, laid the cornerstone of the B&O in Baltimore.

On July 7, Army Engineers began to survey the route for the railroad.

Praise came from both the B&O and the U.S. Senate Committee on Roads and Canals on the thoroughness of the Engineers' work.

Army Engineer 2nd Lt. George W. Whistler supervised the initial laying of the track in October 1829.

In May 1830, the first 13 miles of track running from Baltimore to what is now Ellicott City was opened for the first railway passenger service in the United States.

Information provided by Steve Brooks, District Librarian. The library is located in the City Crescent Building, Room 9000-W and is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (410) 962-3423.

Baltimore District's "A Culture of Discipline" *Resource Management*



Photo by Fred Furney

As a Civil Accountant, Tana McFatridge spends a lot of time reviewing an impressive number of financial transactions relating to the triennial Unliquidated Obligations (ULO) review and communicates frequently with technical responsible employees across the District to ensure that open obligations, accounts payable, commitments and customer orders are reviewed in depth three times a year. Tana's disciplined approach to the ULO review process is commendable, and ensures the District's compliance with the Department of the Army's Joint Reconciliation Program.



Photo by Fred Furney

Day to remember

For Andra Allison, an acquisition officer in Contracting Division, Nov. 2 was a day she won't forget. First, she accepted a marriage proposal from Maj. Jack Moore, executive officer of Program Executive Office Soldier at Fort Belvoir, and later was promoted to major during a ceremony held in the City Crescent Building. Her parents and son pinned on her new rank.

Warming up

Mark Mendelsohn, a biologist in Planning Division, and Walt, the wolf, yodel before a gathering of District employees in the City Crescent Building Oct. 27. Mendelsohn, Walt, and his other wolf, Hazel, sang Home on the Range and yodeled in the 2010 Western Music Association Showcase and Awards Show in Albuquerque, N.M., on Nov. 20, before approximately 110 spectators. Their performance was well received by the audience, who laughed while enjoying the unusual performance. Wolves, you see, are unique to the competition. The trio was asked to perform again next year.



Photo by Fred Furney

Baltimore District's "Check It" Program: Information Management



Photo by Fred Furney

Eddie Albert, a computer technician for Army Corps of Engineers Information Technology, checks the configuration of a computer to ensure it is communicating with corporate servers and receiving required software updates and security packages. The purpose of the Check It program is to remind employees of the importance of double-checking work for safety and accuracy.



Photo by Delores Britt Millhouse

Living history

Joseph L. Britt (left) was honored as the oldest living Marine who trained at Montford Point Base, N.C., during a dinner Nov. 6. His grandson, Steven Everette, Contracting Division, escorted his 94-year-old grandfather to the event. More than 20,000 African Americans trained in segregated facilities between 1942 and 1949 at Montford Point and became the first African Americans to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps.

CFC inspires a happy howl-o-ween

Companion dog for sight-impaired Alison Ballard from the Human Resources Office got into the Baltimore District Combined Federal Campaign spirit by dressing up for Halloween. Hermione, a 2-year-old silver-beige standard poodle, was dressed up as her namesake from Harry Potter. Ms. Ballard said Hermoine's name was in part inspired by the popular series, but mostly from a character in William Shakespeare's play The Winter's Tale. The Baltimore District Combined Federal Campaign runs through Dec. 15. The goal is 25 percent employee participation and \$95,000 in donations. For more information on the campaign, office points of contact and a link to online pledges, visit <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/> and click on the CBACFC link under Employee quick links.



Photo by Fred Furney



Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715
Official Business



Printed on recycled paper

Welcome to... Terry McBride, APG IPO; and Louis Snead, Jr., intern graduate, to CO; James Larner, Dennis Smith and Arminio Grepo, WA; and Rick Fegley, Pam Sleeper and Joan Pamperien, RSFO.

Transfers... Jennifer Watson, from PPMD to PL; Kevin Schoch and John Borders, from DC IPO to APG IPO; and David Crumpton, from Fort Belvoir IPO to APG IPO.

Farewell to... Yvonne Phillips, EN, who has accepted a position as a management analyst at APG; Gregory Bass, EN, who is at the end of his rehired annuitant status and the beginning of his permanent retirement; Brian "Pic" Pritchett, Harrisburg Area Office, who transferred to Carlisle Barracks; Robert Morgan, WA; Cecil Bateson, OP, who retired from Jennings Randolph Lake; Audrey Phillips, Fort Belvoir IPO; and Rama Ganti, Fort Detrick IPO, who has accepted a position at the National Archives.

Congratulations to... Erica Shriver, PL, on her marriage; Staff Sgt. Adam Fischer, Fort Detrick IPO, on his reenlistment Nov. 10; Nancy Kebe-Robinson, CT, on passing the PMP certification exam; Cecil Humphrey, Harrisburg Area Office, on the birth of his granddaughter; Carolyn Hilliard, Detrick IPO, on the successful attainment of her master's degree; Jennie Prange, APG IPO, on the birth of her son; Capt. Thomas Piazze,



Staff Sgt. Adam Fischer



Courtesy photo

Congratulations to the 15 employees from RSFO who ran and finished the Army Ten Miler Oct. 24. They formed two registered teams, including (pictured left to right) Mark Wherry, Jay Hershey, Shelley Spayde, Andrea de le Penamm and (not pictured) Rick Carter, Jim Simms, Stacy Ellis, Denise Hopper, Amy Yale, Jared Olsen, Willie L. Smith, Nikia Pickett, Tiffani Denham, Shannon Roberts and Paul Brown. Wherry went on to run the Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 31.

APG IPO, on the birth of his son; Barbara Church, PPMD, on her selection and promotion to supervisory program analyst; Ashleigh Fountain, OP, on her recent promotion; and Bill Leigh, RM, and Liz Leigh, EN, on the birth of their first grandson.

Sympathy to... Joe-I Yancey, RM, on the loss of his brother; Cecil Humphrey, Harrisburg Area Office, on the loss of his granddaughter; Dan Durski, EN, on the loss of his mother-in-law; and Laura Smith, NGA IPO, on the loss of her sister.